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Fulton brought his submarine and torpedo to the attention of the French government. But the seamen were skeptical of his newfangled ideas, and, although the invention proved successful, the peace of Amiens brought hostilities to a close without his having been able to launch an attack against a hostile war craft.

Undaunted, Fulton turned his attention to a thought which had occurred to him nine years before — the invention of the steamboat. "The Steamboat from New York to Albany in 12 hours" was his confident prediction. And in his own words we read of the project he made with Chancellor Livingston, of his experiments, of his disappointments, of his unshaken faith in himself and in his ideas, and of his great triumph.

It is a charming story, charmingly told. To the boy reader this picture of the Pennsylvania lad must appeal as being a worthy example to emulate.

ROBERT NEESER

*Lincoln and episodes of the civil war.* By William E. Doster, late brevet brigadier general U. S. V., provost marshal of Washington. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's sons, 1915. 282 p. \$1.50)

The period is rapidly passing when we may expect any personal recollections of the great emancipator other than those appearing as posthumous writings. There is still living at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and in active life, a man who was provost marshal of the district of Washington during the stirring years of 1862-3. Incidents of his official life and observations on prominent people he "jotted down on the reverse side of field maps and on loose sheets of paper" and at the close of the war made these memoranda into a form of narrative in which they now appear. In the period between the close of hostilities and 1909, the writer was too much engrossed in his professional and other duties to undertake the publication of the manuscript. An address given at Lehigh university in 1909 on his recollections of Lincoln persuaded him to give his manuscript to the public. It takes the form of ten chapters preceded by the Lehigh address.

The chapter heads cover the city of Washington in 1862, the old military prisons, the war department, incidents of provost duty, contraband negroes, cabinet members, the campaigns of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, the capitol in 1864, and the trial of the Lincoln conspirators.

His pen sketch of Lincoln shows that "his features were not regular, his complexion was sallow, his hair was lank; a large wart disfigured his right cheek, his mouth was somewhat drawn to one side, and his big bony hands and feet alone would have deprived him of the right to be called an Adonis. His gestures were awkward and clumsy and he appeared to

go through receptions and other fashionable functions like a martyr." He looked out of place in society, made "a poor figure" on horseback but appeared at his best when standing erect in the war department reading despatches from the field. His "calm, gigantic bulk looming up high" above his officers and cabinet entitled him to be called the head of the army.

The author's gossipy story of the capitol of the nation in war times is readable but not likely to change existing history. He also describes the principal arrests made under him as provost marshal, the bribes offered him, and his care of runaway slaves and freedmen. He says Secretary Chase never had any friends — only admirers; Blair was sincere in his union sentiments; Seward was a refined philosopher; Halleck was slouchy but firm; McClellan cleaned up the army by a West Point mathematical system but could not be forced into action against the enemy.

In the author's formal diary kept in 1864 one traces, in his comments on the airs affected by the freedmen, the beginnings of the reconstruction struggle to reduce the negro to his place. It is a pitiful recital in view of the years to follow. In the Lincoln conspiracy trial, the author was retained by Atzerodt's brother to defend that prisoner and was appointed by the court to defend Payne. The defense was hopeless and conviction assured by public sentiment. The author's personal narrative of the trial is most interesting; indeed, that is the adjective best descriptive of the volume. It belongs to the general reader's library and is a real addition to the reminiscental war time literature. Lincoln is only a side figure although well drawn.

E. E. SPARKS

*The northern confederacy according to the plans of the "Essex Junto" 1796-1814.* A dissertation presented to the faculty of Princeton university in candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. By Charles Raymond Brown. (Princeton: Princeton university press, London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford university press. 1915. 123 p. \$.80)

This monograph merits some attention as an effort in a needed direction — the study of disunion tendencies in New England. The author endeavors to establish the thesis that the motives causing the rejection of the first proposed state constitution for Massachusetts, the factitious opposition to the policy of the elder Adams and the Louisiana purchase and the bitter defiance of commercial restrictions that preceded our second war with Great Britain, sprang from one and the same source. He localizes this in eastern Massachusetts under the name "Essex Junto," and assumes that its end was the formation of a "Northern Confederacy."